

REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed September 4, 2003. Claims 20 and 21 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-19 are currently pending and at issue. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

Claims 1-21 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 6-24 of Applicants' co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/012,730. The Examiner is thanked for indicating that this rejection will be withdrawn when the remaining rejection (under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)) is overcome or when claims 20 and 21 are canceled.

Claims 20 and 21 have been canceled, without prejudice. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Obviousness

Claims 20 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Martin.

Claims 20 and 21 have been canceled, without prejudice. Accordingly, this rejection is rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining, which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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